

9D-HR-19764  
PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A refrigeration appliance cabinet comprising:

a bottom mullion, said bottom mullion comprising a pair of adjacent channels and an engagement portion proximate a base portion of an adjacent one of said pair of adjacent channels; and

a casing, one of said bottom mullion engagement portion and said casing comprising a retaining tongue and the other of said bottom mullion engagement portion and said casing comprising an engagement surface for being received in between said tongue and an adjacent surface of said one of said bottom mullion engagement portion and said casing.

2. (previously presented) A refrigeration appliance cabinet in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a bottom rail, said bottom rail received in one of said channels of said bottom mullion.

3. (original) A refrigeration appliance cabinet in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising at least one inner liner and foam insulation between said inner liner and said casing.

4. (previously presented) A refrigeration appliance cabinet in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said liner is received in one of said channels of said bottom mullion.

5. (previously presented) A refrigeration appliance cabinet in accordance with Claim 1, said casing comprising a bottom panel, said bottom panel comprising a retaining tongue, said bottom mullion comprising an extended flat portion for press fit engagement with said tongue.

6. (currently amended) A refrigerator cabinet comprising:

9D-HR-19764  
PATENT

a bottom mullion, said bottom mullion comprising a pair of adjacent channels and an engagement portion, one of said channels including a reinforcing section, said engagement portion extending from said reinforcing section; and

a casing in press fit engagement with said bottom mullion engagement portion.

7. (previously presented) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said casing comprises an outer surface and a fastening projection extending from said outer surface.

3. (previously presented) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said bottom mullion engagement portion comprises an engagement surface, said fastening projection engaging said engagement surface.

9. (original) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said fastening projection comprises a tongue that is separated from said engagement surface.

10. (original) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said engagement surface is substantially flat.

11. (previously presented) A refrigerator cabinet comprising:

a casing;

an inner liner within said casing, said inner liner comprising at least one refrigeration compartment; and

a bottom mullion, said bottom mullion comprising a pair of adjacent channels, said bottom mullion configured to receive a portion of said inner liner, said casing configured to receive a portion of said bottom mullion with press fit engagement.

12. (original) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising a lower rail, said bottom mullion configured to receive said lower rail.

9D-HR-19764  
PATENT

13. (previously presented) A refrigerator in accordance with Claim 12, said bottom mullion comprising opposing side surfaces, one of said side surfaces comprising one of said adjacent channels for receiving said lower rail, the other of said side surfaces comprising the other of said adjacent channels for receiving said inner liner.

14. (original) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 11, said cabinet comprising a bottom panel, said bottom panel comprising a tongue for secure coupling to said bottom mullion.

15. (original) A refrigerator cabinet in accordance with Claim 14, said bottom panel comprising a clip, said tongue extending from said clip.

16. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a refrigeration appliance cabinet including a casing shell, an inner liner, a casing bottom panel, and a bottom mullion, said method comprising:

attaching the bottom mullion to the casing shell by hand;

inserting the inner liner into the casing shell;

attaching the casing bottom panel to the bottom mullion by hand; and

injecting a foam insulation medium between the casing and the inner liner.

17. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 16, the casing bottom panel including a clip extending therefrom, said attaching the casing bottom panel comprising engaging the clip to the bottom mullion.

18. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 16, the cabinet further including a casing back panel, said method further comprising attaching the back panel to the casing shell.

9D-HR-19764  
PATENT

19. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 16, the cabinet further comprising a lower rail, said method further comprising attaching the lower rail to the bottom mullion by hand.

20. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a refrigerator cabinet including a casing shell, an inner liner, a casing bottom panel, and a bottom mullion including opposite side surfaces, each of the side surfaces including a channel, said method comprising:

inserting the inner liner into the casing shell;

*D1*  
*cont* press fitting the bottom mullion to the inner liner such that the inner liner is received in one of the bottom mullion channels;

press fitting the casing bottom panel to the bottom mullion; and

injecting a foam insulation medium between the casing and the inner liner.

21. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 20, the casing bottom panel including a retaining tongue extending therefrom; said press fitting the casing bottom panel comprising inserting the bottom mullion into the retaining tongue.

22. (withdrawn) A method in accordance with Claim 20, the cabinet further comprising a lower rail, said method further comprising press fitting the lower rail to the bottom mullion such that the lower rail is received in one of the bottom mullion channels.

23. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a refrigerator cabinet including a casing shell, an inner liner, a casing bottom panel including a retaining tongue extending therefrom, and a bottom mullion including opposite side surfaces, each of the side surfaces including a channel, said method comprising:

inserting the inner liner into the casing shell;

9D-HR-19764  
PATENT

press fitting the lower rail to the bottom mullion such that the lower rail is received in one of the bottom mullion channels;

press fitting the bottom mullion to the inner liner such that the inner liner is received in one of the bottom mullion channels;

press fitting the casing bottom panel to the bottom mullion such the retaining tongue engages the bottom mullion; and

injecting a foam insulation medium between the casing and the inner liner.